

THE DELTA



The Delta Region:

- *The Delta is a 750,000 acre area which includes both a maze of sloughs and islands, cities and towns, as well as a viable agricultural base.*
- *The Delta provides aquatic and terrestrial habitat for over 750 species of plants and animals.*
- *It is the hub of California's water system, supplying water to cities in the Bay area and Southern California as well as to farms in the San Joaquin Valley.*
- *The Delta is an important recreation area which supports many different activities.*

Innovative Partnerships

The Delta Protection Commission has been charged with regional planning for the “heart” of the Delta. This includes land uses and resource management for the Delta area. Key land uses are agriculture, wildlife habitat and recreation. The Commission, as a CALFED agency, works closely to keep local stakeholders informed about how the CALFED plan is being implemented and brings their concerns and suggestions forward.

Regional Priorities and Issues

- Preserving a viable agricultural base.
- Maintaining strong levees.
- Protecting water quality for agricultural and urban water users in and around the Delta.
- Protecting and increasing recreational opportunities.
- Restore healthy ecosystems to benefit native species.

Statewide Benefits

Many Delta actions directly benefit other regions. These include:

- Improving levee reliability in the Delta also protect water quality and supply for exporters.
- Partnering with local efforts to support wildlife-friendly agriculture can help restore fish and wildlife populations while protecting the viability of agriculture.
- Protecting water quality in the Delta is also important for water users that divert from the Delta.
- Maintaining Delta recreational resources benefits anglers, boaters, and recreational interests from other areas.
- Restoring habitat in the Delta benefits recreational users and improves water supply reliability.

Regional Accomplishments



Water Supply Reliability

- Draft engineering feasibility completed for in-Delta storage project. The project is one of five surface water storage options under evaluation to add storage capacity and flexibility to the water system.
- Progress made on design and environmental review of South Delta Improvements Program to increase Delta pumping to 8,500 cubic feet/second and install permanent operable barriers to improve water supply reliability and water quality for local users.

- Work continued on installation of temporary barriers and site-specific diversion improvements to assure water supply to south Delta farms.
- Planning and design continued for SWP and CVP intertie.
- Modeling studies completed for State Water Project / Central Valley Project intertie and environmental documentation and design initiated.
- Two years of research and experiments conducted on Delta Cross-Channel re-operation as well as water quality monitoring and fish tracking studies.



Water Quality

- \$10.1 million invested in six ecosystem restoration projects with water quality benefits and \$1.7 million invested in four drinking water quality projects to monitor and assess organic carbon sources and processes in the Delta.
- Substantial progress made on Delta water quality modeling of conveyance and storage alternatives.
- Real-time salinity monitoring and modeling program implemented in the San Joaquin River.
- Major program funded to monitor dissolved oxygen and other parameters in the Bay-Delta and San Joaquin River.



Ecosystem Restoration and Watersheds

- \$155 million invested in 107 ecosystem projects, studies, and aquisition, including wetlands protection, habitat restoration, wildlife-friendly agriculture and efforts to curb invasive species.
- Major studies funded to monitor and examine issues such as effects of pesticides on fish in the Bay-Delta and dissolved organic carbon and methyl mercury releases from restored wetlands.



Levee System Integrity

- Funding provided to improve 40 miles of Delta levees up to the PL 84-99 limit, including projects on Sherman, Bradford and Jersey Islands and Webb Tract.
- Over 324,000 cubic yards of dredged material reused to increase levee stability while enhancing habitat.
- Significant progress made on levee subsidence studies with a demonstration project launched on Twitchell Island and a strategic framework developed for addressing subsidence.
- Emergency response capabilities improved through draft Multi-Agency Emergency Response Plan, improved coordination and acquisition of flood fight materials.
- Studies initiated to analyze seismic risk to Delta levees.



Sturgeon in Yolo Bypass fish screen.